

26th August 1925]

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“ May I ask whether the Government approve of this policy of district boards refusing necessary help to leper asylums on the ground that they are semi-national institutions ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Sir, the Government will certainly be glad if the local boards make a grant to such institutions as leper asylums. As to the general policy of the district boards the Government do not propose to dictate.”

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“ Will the Government consider the question of making up for the deficiency if particular district boards do not consider favourably the question of making grants to such semi-national institutions ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The proposal is not before the Government. If there is any such proposal, the Government will consider it.”

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—“ I find from the answer to clause (e) that the Government already make a monthly capitation grant to the asylum of Rs. 4-8-0 per patient subject to a maximum of Rs. 3,670. My information is to the effect that out of 371 lepers admitted into the asylum most of them are Christians. Will the Government be pleased to instruct the District Board of South Kanara to see that non-Christians are also freely admitted ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I am not sure that all of them are Christians. I have visited some of these asylums managed by the missions. Hindus and others also are admitted into those asylums.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“ May I ask where my hon. Friend Mr. Gopalan got his information from. He said there were 371 patients in the asylum, whereas my information is that there are only 45, and that there are hardly 371 patients even in the whole district. I want also to know wherefrom he got the information that the majority of them are Christians ”

*Appointment, etc., of chairmen of municipalities as presidents of district boards, etc.*

\* 463 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) in how many cases the chairmen of municipalities have been appointed or elected as presidents of district or taluk boards;

(b) if so, the names of those district or taluk boards whose presidents continue to be the chairmen of such municipalities; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to stop the continuance of the same gentleman functioning both as president of a district or taluk board and chairman of a municipality as the work of either body is sufficient to occupy his full time?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the latest Annual Civil List.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know, with reference to clause (c), whether at least for the efficient administration of the local boards and municipalities it is not better to have separate presidents for local boards and separate chairmen for municipalities so that they may function properly ? ”

[26th August 1925]

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ That is a matter left to the discretion of local bodies. Because if a man is elected president to a local board and if the same man is also elected chairman of a municipal council, the Government cannot interfere.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Am I to understand that the Government have never at any time appointed a man who was already chairman of a municipal council as president of the district board ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ That question does not arise.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ May I know whether the headquarters for the board and the municipality are in the same place in such cases or in different places ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ It may be in the same place. It is not unusual that the headquarters of a district board and the headquarters of a municipal council are in one and the same place.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ May I know a case where the same place happened to be the headquarters of both the bodies ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ My hon. Friend can easily get the information by a reference to the Annual Civil List.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether complaints have been received from the citizens concerned in connexion with having one gentleman functioning in both capacities ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Sir, I have only to say that these complaints had better to be made to the electorates.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know whether the chairman of the Coimbatore Municipality was also nominated as district board president ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Yes. He was elected later on as chairman.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Was not the nomination made when he was chairman of the municipality ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ But he was also later on elected as chairman.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Was not the chairman of the Bellary Municipality similarly appointed president of the district board ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Yes.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether it was the case with the president of the Coimbatore District Board ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The president was nominated to the district board, and he was later on elected as chairman of the municipality.”

*The Coimbatore water-supply scheme.*

\* 464 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received several memorials from the residents of Coimbatore objecting to the Coimbatore water-supply scheme as at present decided upon ;